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PART I.

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT.

Medical Inspection of Pupils.

READ—

Government Order No. 5220-68—Edn. 154-14-2, dated 24th March 1916, approving of a scheme of Medical Inspection of schools at District Headquarters in the State.

2. Paragraph 57 of the Government Order No. 11180-250—Edn. 498-20-1, dated 25th May 1921, passing orders on the Education Memorandum.

3. Subject No. 99 of the Proceedings of the Representative Assembly at the Dassara Session of 1923, regarding the Medical Inspection of boys and girls in schools and colleges and reply of Government thereto.

4. Correspondence ending with letter No. H. C. 312—23-24, dated 11—12th December 1924, from the Inspector-General of Education, submitting detailed proposals for the introduction of the scheme of Medical Inspection of school children.

ORDER No. E. 1640-43—Edn. 192 23 9, DATED 8TH OCTOBER 1925.

In the Government Order of the 24th March 1916 read above, a scheme was sanctioned for the Medical examination of pupils at District Headquarter towns, of which the main features were as follows:—

(i) Medical examination of pupils to be conducted by the existing medical agency, namely, in Bangalore and Mysore by Health Officers with the assistance of Medical Officers in charge of Dispensaries and in other towns, by Health Officers or District Sanitary Officers or District Medical and Sanitary Officers.

(ii) Examination of girls to be conducted by local Lady Medical Officers.

(iii) The sight of pupils to be tested in cases of necessity in the Minto Ophthalmic Hospital.

(iv) A course of 15 lectures for the benefit of teachers under training in Normal schools to be delivered by Medical Officers selected by the Senior Surgeon.

No remuneration was to be paid to Medical Officers for this work.

The above scheme however could not, owing to various causes, be brought into operation to any satisfactory extent. On a further consideration of the matter, Government directed in para 57 of the Government Order dated the 25th May 1921 read above that the scheme be introduced for a beginning in A.V. and High Schools at District Headquarters and that in the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore the services of a retired Medical Officer or a qualified private Practitioner might be engaged for the work on a monthly allowance of Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 and arrangements made at other District Headquarters for the inspection being conducted by a local Medical Officer on payment of a small fee for each pupil. As the resources counted upon by the Government for carrying out this and other educational reforms have not been fully realised, it has not been possible to give effect even to this scheme. The subject was brought up for discussion at the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly in the year 1923 when Government stated that District Medical Officers would be asked to inspect schools at District Headquarters and Medical Officers in charge of Taluk Dispensaries, schools at Taluk Headquarters.

The Inspector-General of Education accordingly submitted in December last proposals which are briefly as follows:

(i) to conduct five inspections during a pupil's school life as indicated below—

First examination	do	in first year Primary Class.
Second	do	in fourth year Primary Class.
Third	do	in third year Middle School Class.
Fourth	do	in fourth Form Class.
Fifth	do	in sixth Form Class.

This will be followed by two examination in the University in accordance with the scheme of Medical Inspection of students in the University sanctioned in Government Order No. E. 222-4—Edu. 304-23-2, dated 19th July 1921, the first in the first year and the second in the last year of the University degree course;

(ii) to restrict such inspections to schools in the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore in the first instance and in the light of experience gained and as funds become available, to extend the scheme to District and Taluk Headquarters and then to the rest of the State.

The Inspector-General suggests the appointment of two whole-time Medical Officers of the grade of Assistant Surgeons for the examination of boys in the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore, and of one whole-time Lady Medical Officer for girls' schools in both cities, at a total recurring expenditure of Rs. 11,120 per year on salaries and establishment charges and proposes that Government should contribute one-half of the expenditure, the balance being met from other sources such as fees, contributions by municipalities and by managements of aided schools.

On a careful consideration of all aspects of the proposals, Government observe that though the Medical examination of pupils in a systematic manner requires to be taken up soon in view of the vast importance of improving the health of the next generation, it is not feasible to start the system on any large scale under the present financial condition. They are accordingly pleased to direct that as a first instalment of the measure, the scheme be introduced in schools in Bangalore City for a period of one year as an experimental measure and to sanction the temporary appointment of a full-time Medical Officer on a pay of Rs. 150 per mensem with a carriage allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem for the work.

The Inspector-General of Education is requested to submit in consultation with the Senior Surgeon a programme of work to be done by the Medical Officer. Suitable forms may be prescribed for recording the results of inspections so as to afford proper data for deciding upon the usefulness of the scheme and the desirability of extending it to other centres. The cost on account of the pay and allowance of the Medical Officer and other charges in connection with the trial of the scheme will be met from the provision of Rs. 3,000 in the current year's budget under "26 Education, 13 (iv) Miscellaneous-Medical Inspection of Schools". The Inspector-General should report before submitting his budget for the next official year how the scheme is working and on future requirements under it.

P. G. D'SOUZA,
Chief Secretary to Government.